

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 continue to be the pending claims in the application. Claim 16 has been amended to correct an inadvertent grammatical error. Support for this amendment can be found on page 16, paragraph 44 of the specification. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks which follow is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-27 of U.S. Patent No. 6,872,440, claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,858,550, claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,586,353, claims 1-11 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/354,216, claims 1-11 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/354,220, claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/766,649, claims 1-21 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/766,654, claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/766,678, and claims 1-15 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/354,219.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Nonstatutory-type double patenting prohibits claims in a second patent that are not patentably distinct from claims in a first patent. *See* MPEP § 804. However, the claims of the current application are distinct from the claims of the aforementioned patents and co-pending patent applications. In particular, the claims of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,872,440, 6,858,550, 6,586,353 and U.S. Patent Applications Nos. 10/354,219, 10/354,220 and 10/354,216 do not recite the metallic component element of the present claims.

Further, the claims of co-pending U.S. Patent Applications Nos. 10/354,216, 10/354,220, 10/766,649, 10/766,654, 10/766,678 and 10/354,219 do not recite a composite material which comprises a substrate having an ionic charge, a coating which coats the substrate wherein said coating consists essentially of a filler material comprising clay and a binder material, wherein said binder material bonds the filler material together and to the substrate and wherein said coating does not bleed through said substrate.

For all the aforementioned reasons, Applicants assert that the present claims are patentably distinct from all of the claims of the U.S. Patents and co-pending U.S. Patent Applications mentioned by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horner Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,365,533) in view of Ahluwalia (U.S. Patent No. 5,965,257). The Examiner alleges that Horner Jr. et al. discloses the claimed invention except for the teaching that the substrate has an ionic charge and a coating which coats the substrate having essentially the same ionic charge and that the composite material further requires water repellant material, antifungal material, a surface friction agent, and an algacide. The Examiner concedes that Horner Jr. et al. fails to disclose that the material comprises 5-10% glass fibers, 80-90% coating, and from 5-10% metallic component. The Examiner asserts that Ahluwalia teaches a structural article that comprises a substrate having an ionic charge which is coated with a coating having essentially the same ionic charge, wherein the coating consists of a filler material and a binder material, and wherein said structural material may be coated with a water repellent material, an algacide, and antifungal material, an antibacterial material, a surface friction agent, a flame retardant material, and a coloring dye. The Examiner then contends that it would have been obvious to have used Ahluwalia's teaching of a substrate having an ionic charge which is coated with a coating having essentially the same ionic charge on the facer material of Horner Jr. et al. The Examiner further contends that it would also have been obvious to have used Ahluwalia's water repellent material, antifungal material, antibacterial material, surface friction agent and algacide on the glass mat of Horner Jr. et al.

The Claimed Invention

Claims 1-19 relate to a composite material comprising a substrate having an ionic charge, a coating which coats the substrate having essentially the same ionic charge, and a metallic component adhered to the coated substrate wherein said coating consists essentially of a

filler material comprising clay and a binder material, wherein said binder material bonds the filler material together and to the substrate and wherein said coating does not bleed through said substrate.

The Prior Art

Horner Jr. et al. discloses a facer member for use in the construction industry comprising a preformed fiber mat substrate coated with a prefoamed, self-sustaining foam mixture. The facer member disclosed by Horner Jr. et al. can be used to manufacture insulation boards comprising thermosetting or thermoplastic foam cores disposed between a pair of facer members laminated to the core surfaces. *See* Horner Jr. et al. col. 5, lines 34-39. Horner Jr. et al. further indicates that the insulation boards may be manufactured with a facer member laminated to one side of the foam core and aluminum foil on the other side of the foam core. *See* Horner Jr. et al. col. 6, lines 3-10.

Ahluwalia teaches a structural article comprising a substrate having an ionic charge coated with a coating having essentially the same ionic charge wherein said coating consists essentially of a filler material and a binder material and wherein said binder material bonds the filler material together and to the substrate and wherein said coatings does not bleed through said substrate.

There is No *Prima Facie* Case of Obviousness

Horner Jr. et al. and Ahluwalia patents do not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation in the cited references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the combined references must teach or suggest all the claimed limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and must not be based on the Applicants disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F2d 488, 20 USPQ 2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991); MPEP § 2142.

In this case, there is no suggestion or motivation in any of the cited references to alter Horner Jr. et al. to produce a composite material according to the present claims. The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *See In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Horner Jr. et al. teaches facer members which are used to manufacture an insulation board having a foam core with a facer member laminated on both sides. Aluminum foil may be used to substitute one of the facer members to manufacture the insulation board having aluminum foil laminated to one side of the foam core and a facer sheet laminated to the other side. *See* Horner Jr. et al. col. 5, line 64-67 to col. 6, lines 1-10. In contrast, the presently claimed composite material comprises a metallic component adhered to the coated substrate. The combination of Horner Jr. et al. and Ahluwalia would, at best, suggest to a skilled artisan to make an insulation board comprising a foam core with the coated substrate of Ahluwalia laminated on one side of the foam core and aluminum foil laminated on the other side of the foam core. The element of the present claims that the metallic component is adhered to the coated substrate is not found anywhere in Horner Jr. et al. or Ahluwalia, whether taken alone, or in combination. As noted above, in order for the Examiner to make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the combined references must teach or suggest all the claimed limitations which the combined teachings of Horner Jr. et al. and Ahluwalia fail to do.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Horner Jr. et al. in view of Ahluwalia.

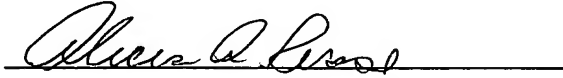
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present invention is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application is earnestly solicited. Please send any further correspondence relating to this application to the undersigned attorney at the address below.

Applicants believe no fee is due in connection with this communication. However, should any fee be due in connection with this communication, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John D. Murnane", is written over a horizontal line.

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